

What is claimed is:

1. An ejected sheet stacking device for use in an image forming apparatus provided with a sheet ejection part formed in a hollow place formed so as to open to an outer housing of the image forming apparatus and with a sheet storing mechanism for storing sheets ejected from a sheet ejection opening of the image forming apparatus, the ejected sheet stacking device comprising:

(a) a plurality of sheet storing trays arranged in a multi-stage way in a vertical direction;

(b) an ejecting and conveying mechanism for conveying a sheet ejected from the sheet ejection opening of the image forming apparatus to one of the sheet storing trays; and

(c) a conveyance path switching mechanism for switching a bifurcating conveyance path which bifurcates the sheet ejected from the sheet ejection opening to lead to each of the sheet storing trays,

wherein the ejected sheet stacking device is mounted to the image forming apparatus in place of the sheet storing mechanism which has been provided on the image forming apparatus.

2. The ejected sheet stacking device of claim 1, wherein each of the sheet storing trays comprises an auxiliary tray extending in a sheet ejecting direction for receiving a longer sheet.

3. The ejected sheet stacking device of claim 1, wherein the ejected sheet stacking device is mounted to an inner wall partitioning the hollow place of the image forming apparatus through a mounting opening which is formed so that a connection part of the ejected sheet stacking device to be connected is exposed, and

wherein the ejected sheet stacking device further comprises a holding portion for holding a cover part for covering the mounting opening which remains opened after the ejected sheet stacking device is dismounted from the image forming apparatus.

4. The ejected sheet stacking device of claim 1, further comprising a second ejected sheet stacking device having a same structure as the ejected sheet stacking device, capable of mounting in place of a sheet storing tray corresponding to one of the bifurcation paths in the ejected sheet stacking device.

5. The ejected sheet stacking device of claim 4,
wherein the hollow place comprises a first space
portion downstream of the sheet ejection opening and a second
space portion downstream of the first space portion in a
sheet ejecting direction, and a level of a bottom surface of
the second space portion is lower than a level of a bottom
surface of the first space portion, and

wherein the ejected sheet stacking device is mounted
using the first space portion and the second ejected stacking
device is mounted using the second space portion in the
hollow place.